

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically Automatic description method for describing an unknown multimedia object in which the unknown object is associated with several types a plurality of reference multimedia objects each time depending on a probability of membership to each considered type of said plural reference multimedia objects such that multimedia objects having memberships in each considered type of said plural reference multimedia objects and a lower affinity to elected multimedia objects having memberships in each type of said plural reference multimedia objects are excluded, (G), the method including a step consisting the method comprising the steps of:

measuring at least one physical characteristic on of the unknown multimedia object (F) and comparing it the at least one physical characteristic of the unknown multimedia object with measurements of characteristics which best represent representing the each type of said plural reference multimedia objects; types, the method also including the step (H) consisting of

using at least one probabilistic relation for each type of said plural reference multimedia objects to obtain giving a probability that the unknown multimedia object is a member of membership to the type of said plural reference multimedia objects considered as a function of the based on a result of the comparison of the at least one measured physical characteristics of the unknown object and to the type measurements of the characteristics which best represent each type of said plural reference multimedia objects;[[],]] the method also including the step consisting of

electing the multimedia objects having memberships in each type of said plural reference multimedia objects which form a majority of probabilities

associated with each type of said plural reference multimedia objects considered
and which are co-designated by an associated affinity relation using obtained
probabilities that the unknown multimedia objects are members of membership to
the different types of said plural reference multimedia objects thus obtained in
combination with a series of affinity relations between each type of said plural
reference multimedia objects types, so as to elect memberships that are majority
in probability and are also co-designated by their affinity relation, so as to exclude
such that the multimedia objects having memberships to in each considered type
of said plural reference multimedia objects and with a the lower affinity with to
the elected multimedia objects having memberships in each type of said plural
reference multimedia objects types are excluded.

2. (Currently Amended) Description The method according to claim 1, characterized in
that it includes further comprising a the preliminary step consisting of:

defining the reference characteristics of a type of said plural reference
multimedia objects starting from a group of multimedia objects presumed to
represent each type of said plural reference multimedia objects, this type(s), by
said step of defining the reference characteristics comprising:

measuring a physical characteristic of on this entire the
group of multimedia objects[[],]; and by

obtaining at least one or more reference value values for
this the measured characteristic, this (these) said at least one
reference value being value(s) will then be used to define the
probability of membership relation to the type of said plural

reference multimedia objects as a value with to which [[a]] the measurement ~~on an~~ of the at least one physical characteristic of the unknown object is compared to ~~deduce~~ determine the probability of membership to the type of said plural reference multimedia objects.

3. (Currently Amended) Method The method according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising the step of:

~~performing an automatic search the group of multimedia objects is provided in an automatic search step in an information system with an Internet downloader and an Internet search engine to provide the group of multimedia objects.~~

4. (Currently Amended) Method The method according to ~~any one of the above claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that it includes further comprising a ~~the~~ preliminary step consisting of:

~~taking a set of descriptive objects and measuring a frequency of simultaneous occurrence of types of said plural reference multimedia object in these a set of descriptive objects and thus deducing to determine the existence of an affinity between at least two types of said plural reference multimedia objects when the types of said plural reference multimedia objects have a specific simultaneous rate of occurrence.~~

5. (Currently Amended) Description The method according to any one of the above claims claim 1, characterized in that it includes further comprising the step consisting of:

recognizing making a shape recognition on of the unknown multimedia object (F)[[,]];

wherein at least one reference shape of the unknown multimedia object to be recognized on the unknown object making up comprises a physical characteristic belonging to the a definition of one of the types of said plural reference multimedia objects.

6. (Currently Amended) Method The method according to claim 5, characterized in that wherein the shape recognition recognizing step includes a similarity measurement between a determined shape determined on of the unknown multimedia object and the at least one reference shape, and also includes the use utilization of a predefined relation giving which provides a probability (C) of membership of the unknown multimedia object to the type of said plural reference multimedia objects as a function of the shape similarity measurement made between the determined shape of the unknown multimedia object and the at least one reference shape.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to any one of the above claims claim 1, characterized in that wherein the at least one type of physical characteristic of the unknown multimedia object includes several a plurality of reference characteristics; (E1, E2), and in that

wherein at least two measurements are made performed on the unknown multimedia object to make generate a proximity measurement with each of the said plural two reference characteristics;[[,]] and in that

the probability of membership to this in the type of reference

characteristics is ~~made~~ performed using at least two relations, each giving providing a probability of membership to the type of reference characteristics as a function of ~~the~~ a proximity to a different characteristic₁[[,]] and ~~in that~~

wherein the at least two probability relations are used to set up a resulting resultant global probability of membership of the object to the ~~considered~~ type of reference characteristics considered.

8. (Currently Amended) Method The method according to ~~the above~~ claim 7, characterized in that wherein the at least two relations ~~for which~~ each provide the probability of membership to the type of reference characteristics are used ~~according to~~ in accordance with a combinational fuzzy logic ~~technique~~ to provide ~~the~~ a resulting the resultant global probability of membership of the unknown multimedia object to the type of reference characteristics considered.

9. (Currently Amended) Method The method according to ~~any one of the above claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that a further comprising the step of:

implementing fuzzy logic ~~technique~~ ~~is used~~ ~~consisting of~~ comprising a mechanism that ~~gives~~ provides a single probability of membership to a reference type of characteristic starting from a combination of similarity probabilities with different characteristics to the reference type of characteristic.

10. (Currently Amended) Automatic description A device for automatically providing a description of an unknown multimedia object in which the unknown object is associated with several types a plurality of reference multimedia objects each time with depending on a probability of membership to the a considered type of said plural reference multimedia objects (G), the device including comprising:

means of for measuring at least one physical characteristic on of the unknown object (F) and comparing it the at least one physical characteristic on of the unknown object with measurements of characteristics which best represent representing the reference types each type of said plural reference multimedia objects;[[,]] the device also including

means for using at least one probabilistic relation for each type of said plural reference multimedia objects to provide giving a probability that the unknown multimedia object is a member of membership to the type of said plural reference multimedia objects considered as a function of the based on a result of the comparison of the at least one measure physical characteristics of the unknown object to the measurements of the characteristics which best represent each type of said plural reference multimedia objects; and the type, the device also including

means for electing multimedia objects having memberships in each type of said plural reference multimedia objects which form a majority of probabilities associated with each type of said plural reference multimedia objects considered and which are co-designated by an associated affinity relation of using obtained probabilities that the unknown multimedia objects are members of membership to the different types of said plural reference multimedia objects thus obtained in

combination with a series of affinity relations between each type of said plural reference multimedia objects types, so as to elect (H) memberships that are majority in probability and are also co-designated by their affinity relation, so as to exclude such that multimedia objects having memberships in the type of said plural reference multimedia objects having with a lower affinity with to the elected multimedia objects in the type of plural reference multimedia objects types are excluded.

11. (Currently Amended) Device The device according to claim 10, characterized in that it includes further comprising:

processing means for making use of several utilizing a plurality of groups of reference multimedia objects (B, C), each of said plural groups providing a group best representation of representing its a corresponding type of said plural reference multimedia objects, these said processing means also being designed configured to measure at least one physical characteristic for an entire group considered, and for deriving a reference measurement for this the at least one physical characteristic for the entire group considered from the at least one physical characteristic, it, this the derived reference measurement then being used in the definition of the being utilized to define a relationship providing relation giving a probability of membership to the type of said plural reference multimedia objects considered[[,]] as a measurement with to which the device compares a measurement on of an unknown object to deduce determine the probability of membership to the type of said plural reference multimedia objects considered.

(C)[[.]]

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to ~~either~~ claim 10 or ~~11~~, characterized in that it includes further comprising:

means of carrying out a preliminary step consisting of for preliminarily taking a set of descriptive objects and measuring a frequency of occurrence of types of said plural reference multimedia object in these a set of descriptive objects, and then for determining if there is an existence of an affinity between at least two types of said plural reference multimedia objects when these types of said plural reference multimedia objects have a particular specific simultaneous rate of occurrence.

12. (New) The device according to claim 11, further comprising:

means for preliminarily measuring a frequency of occurrence of types of said plural reference multimedia object in a set of descriptive objects, and for determining an existence of an affinity between at least two types of said plural reference multimedia objects when types of said plural reference multimedia objects have a specific simultaneous rate of occurrence.

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets includes changes to FIG. 1a to FIG. 9, which have been amended to include descriptive text in English.